

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 USIA-15 AID-05

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P 160851Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9599

UNCLAS VIENNA 7737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, AU

SUBJECT: PROJECT FOR LABOR LEADERS

REF: STATE 188203

1. EMBASSY VIENNA DECISION NOT TO RECOMMEND AUSTRIA LABOR LEADER FOR SUBJECT PROJECT WAS BASED ON CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF TRADE-OFF VALUE OF USING IVP FUNDS FOR THAT OR PREVIOUSLY AGREED PURPOSES.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES IVP GRANTS ARE ITS MOST VALUABLE TOOL FOR INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF UNITED STATES AMONG AUSTRIANS, ESPECIALLY IN LABOR MOVEMENT WHERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TO US ARE RELATIVELY LIMITED. UNFORTUNATELY, EMBASSY CAN ONLY OFFER ONE OR TWO IVP GRANTS TO LABOR LEADERS EACH YEAR. ON EMBASSY'S FUTURE CANDIDATES LIST ARE SEVERAL WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WITH QUITE PARTICULAR INTERESTS IN AREAS OF LABOR ECONOMICS, TRADE UNION EDUCATION AND INFORMATION, AND WORKER YOUTH ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS OFFICIALS OF BOTH FEDERAL AND CONSTITUENT UNION ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE QUITE PARTICULAR ORGANIZATIONAL, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORIENTATIONS. WE BELIEVE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE FOR BOTH AUSTRIAN AND AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENTS AND FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IS DERIVED FROM CAREFUL, INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMING OF SUCH VISITORS.

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3. IN CASE OF PROJECT SET FORTH REFTEL, EMBASSY

CONSIDERED NOMINATING TRADE UNIONS' INFORMATION DIRECTOR BUT FOLLOWING FACTORS WEIGHED AGAINST SUCH DECISION. AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS BEING REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN AUSTRIAN MEDIA, OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR AUSTRIANS WITH PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL INTERESTS TO OBSERVE US ELECTION PROCESSES, AUSTRIAN LABOR LEADERS ARE GENERALLY AWARE OF EXTENT AND NATURE OF TRADE UNION POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN US, AND FUNDAMENTAL, DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF US ELECTION PROCESSES IS UNDERSTOOD AND UNQUESTIONED IN AUSTRIA.

4. FINALLY, EXPERIENCE WITH GROUP VISITS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING PERSONS OF DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND VASTLY DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, HAS BEEN THAT AUSTRIAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOT FOUND SUCH VISITS AS REWARDING OR PRODUCTIVE AS THEY HAD ANTICIPATED.

5. ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS MILITATED FOR MAINTAINING EXISTING PRIORITIES AND NOMINEE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EMBASSY'S IVP PANEL ESTABLISHED FOR FY '77 AND WHICH WASHINGTON RECENTLY REVIEWED AND APPROVED.

6. IN SHORT, IF FUNDS BEYOND POST FY '77 ALLOCATION WERE MADE AVAILABLE, EMBASSY WOULD NOMINATE AUSTRIAN CANDIDATE.BUCHANAN

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